



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

June 19, 2013

Kathy Snyder
Managing Editor
NBC4 Washington
4001 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016

Re: DC Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

Dear Ms. Snyder:

This letter is a follow-up to my request to the News Department of WRC NBC4 to run a retraction to a story reported by WRC NBC4's Mark Seagraves on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Mark Seagraves reported an incorrect story that included a sequence of events he depicted as the actions of Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

On Wednesday, June 12, from the steps of the John A. Wilson Building facing Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mark Seagraves reported, on camera, a fictional story that was later broadcast on cable television and WRC NBC4's on-line internet stream. Mark Seagraves reported the following:

“As reporters waited outside Vincent Orange’s office where his staff said he’d be in meetings all day and be unavailable for comment, the councilmember slipped outside a side door, ran out to his car parked here, and then sped off before any reporters could answer any questions.”

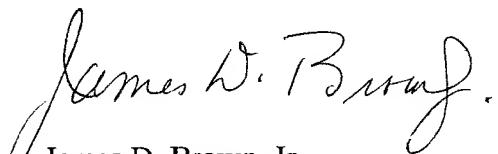
This is an outright lie! The Councilmember did not slip outside a side door. The fact is there is no side door to his office. There is one door in and out of the Councilmember’s office and is in direct site of where the reporters were gathered. Mark Seagraves did not see the Councilmember run out to his car and then speed off before any reporters could ask any questions. This absolutely and positively did not happen. In fact, no other camera or reporter saw this dishonest depiction including Mark Seagraves. Special Assistant to Councilmember Orange, Stacey Lincoln, who walked by the reporters, and then drove the Councilmember’s car on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 to the San Antonio Restaurant in northeast Washington to meet the Councilmember.



The statements made by Mark Seagraves are damaging to the Councilmember, the integrity of the institution of the Council of the District of Columbia, the citizens and community he represents and to the viewers of WRC NBC4. Journalists are tasked with the responsibility to cover report and dispense the news as accurately as possible. It is the duty of journalists to provide its audience with fair, balanced and accurate news without sensationalism. NBC4 Washington has a stellar reputation in the Washington, DC area and as such, we expect that our polite request for a retraction to the story by Mark Seagraves will be granted.

We are requesting a retraction and apology in the same media that was utilized to present this falsehood. Please note, it has been a week since our request has been made. We await your prompt response. I am available to answer questions and receive your response to the unfortunate reporting which fall way below the standards of reporting and the NBC4 standards we are accustomed to.

Sincerely,



James D. Brown, Jr.

Chief of Staff

Office of Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr. At-Large

cc: Honorable Vincent Gray, Mayor

cc: Honorable Anita Bonds

cc: Honorable David Grosso

cc: Honorable David Catania

cc: Honorable Vincent Orange

cc: Honorable Kenyan McDuffie

cc: Honorable Jim Graham

cc: Honorable Jack Evans

cc: Honorable Mary M. Cheh

cc: Honorable Muriel Bowser

cc: Honorable Tommy Wells

cc: Honorable Yvette Alexander

cc: Honorable Marion Barry